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JOHN W. CHANDLER RESIGNS; ACCEPTS WILLIAMS PRESIDENCY

Hamilton Loses Chief Executive

BY FREDERIC BLOCH

President John W. Chandler submitted his resignation to the Board of Trustees this morning to assume the presidency of Williams College. The resignation is effective July 1, 1973. He will announce his resignation to the Faculty in a special meeting at 2:30 this afternoon. Mr. Chandler will become the 13th president of Williams, succedding John E. Sawyer who announced his retirement last November. Chandler's departure represents the third major administrative change in the past two years.

President Chandler was appointed 15th president of Hamilton in April, 1967 and assumed his duties in February, 1968. A graduate of Wake Forest College in 1945, he was the first Hamilton president to hold an undergraduate degree from a Southern institution. He received his Ph.D. from Duke University in 1945 and has also been awarded honorary degrees at Colgate, Wake Forest, and Hamilton.

Prior to coming to Hamilton, Chandler had a long history at Williams. He first joined the Williams faculty as an Assistant Professor of Religion in 1955, becoming Department Chairman in 1960, Acting Provost in 1965 and Dean of Faculty in 1966. He is also a member of the Williams Board of Trustees. Mr. Chandler was the second Hamilton president to come to Hamilton directly from Williams. Frederick Carlos Ferry, tenth president of the college, was its Dean of Faculty from 1903 to 1917 before coming to the Hill.

Moving from one institution to another is not common among college presidents. At Hamilton, this is the first time in this century that a president has resigned to accept the presidency of another institution. Mr. Chandler commented that his departure is "a little like getting a divorce," but added that presidential switches are becoming more common.

Several Williams students visited the campus three weeks ago to speak with certain Hamilton and Kirkland students about the President. Mr. Chandler was interviewed three times for the position and was offered the job last Saturday. He accepted the offer on Sunday, but refrained from making the move official until the Trustee meeting this weekend.

Williams Attachments

Mr. Chandler cailed the decision to leave Hamilton "a painful one", and cited personal and professional attachments to Williams as the main factors in his decision. In a statement to all members of the Hamilton community, he said, "I cannot imagine any other opportunity that could have attracted me away from Hamilton at this time."

Many observers were surprised at the President's decision in light of the fact that for the first time in his tenure at Hamilton, he was working with men whom he had appointed himself (Dean Stephen Kurtz, Dean of Students Gordon Bingham, and Provost J. Martin Caravano). One college official noted that with the departure of "old timers" Winston Tolles and Hadley DePuy, Chandler was exhibiting an air of confidence sometimes missing in earlier years. Chandler himself commented, "The administration is now of my making and I am very proud of it."

Mr. Chandler commented on the differences between his role at Hamilton and his future role at Williams. He emphasized that the one-college structure at Williams is simpler on the administrative level than the co-ordinate structure on the Hill. He said that the

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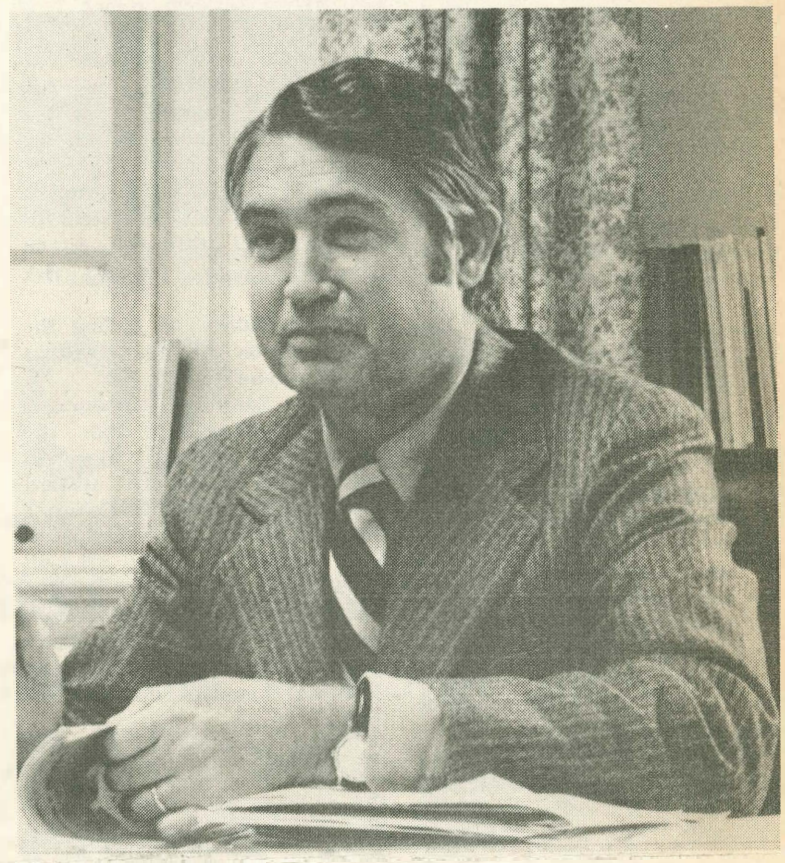

President John Chandler

Personal Reflections

Coleman Burke '34
Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Hamilton College

When John and Florence Chandler and their family leave College Hill July 1st to return to Williamstown it will be an unhappy day for all of us. It would be hypocritical if I did not admit that we are deeply disappointed that John Chandler's Presidency will end in June.

And yet our disappointment is more than matched by the deep satisfactions we have experienced during these recent years when he has been our President.

I have never known a man whom I respected any more or with whom I have had a happier relationship. I'm sure many others in the Hamilton family feel the same way. He has given of himself unsparingly and provided leadership of rare quality on and off the campus for every segment of our college community and with education generally in New York State and across the country.

We shall be ever thankful for the outstanding contribution he and his lovely wife Florence have made to our great College these last six years. I know these have been happy years for the Chandlers and their children as they have been for us all, and this summer it will be "Hail and Godspeed" from both the Chandler family and the Hamilton family with mutual gratitude and affection.

John E. Sawyer, President of Williams College

Williams College is extremely fortunate to have as its new president a person of the character, human qualities, and lifelong dedication to the best in liberal arts education that John Chandler will bring to the office. His values and capacities both as a teacher and Dean of the Faculty at Williams and in his recent five years as President of Hamilton have shown the kind of perception, priorities and record of quiet effectiveness in educational leadership that auger well for the future.

He also will come with the advantages of close association with Williams over almost twenty years. I know already the pleasure with which friends here will welcome the Chandlers back to Williamstown.

Coleman Burke confers with John Chandler before today's Trustee meeting.

To the Community:

On Saturday, March 10, I submitted to the Trustees my resignation as President of Hamilton in order to accept appointment as President of Williams College, effective July 1, 1973.

Florence and I and our four children have deep affection for Hamilton and strong attachment to this geographical region. The decision to leave is apainful one. For five and a half years I have enjoyed ideal support from every segment of the Hamilton community and constituency, and the prospects of continuing usefulness and happiness appeared to be good.

As most of you know, I spent most of my professional career at Williams before coming to Hamilton, and three of our children were born in Williamstown. Thus the appointment which has been offered me has unique appeal. Indeed, I cannot imagine any other opportunity that could have attracted me away from Hamilton at this time.

As I anticipate the termination of my years at Hamilton I am pleased to be able to point to a number of fundamental conditions that will insure success for the Trustees as they seek to appoint a strong new president. Alumni support and loyalty are virtually unmatched in the country. The Trustees are hard-working, generous, and intelligently committed to the kind of education in which Hamilton excels. The budget is in balance. Admissions applications are plentiful enough and of such good quality as to make Hamilton one of themost highly favored colleges. The faculty is stronger than ever and unusually stable. The central administrative offices are staffed by experienced and capable persons. The curriculum is attractive to students and adaptable to new educational developments. and the kind of leadership best suited to achieving those goals.

My remaining months at Hamilton will be devoted to making certain that the momentum of the College is sustained while the search for my successor occurs. I appeal to all of you to join me in doing all we can to maintain and enhance the strengths and attractiveness of Hamilton. In this way all of us can assist in insuring the appointment of the person judged to be best qualified to lead the College.

A Presidential Search Committee consisting of trustees, faculty, students, and Alumni Council representatives will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Your nominations and suggestions will be welcomed. If you will send them to my office they will be directed to the secretary of the Search Committee, who has not yet been appointed.

Several months ago Florence and I made plans to be in Europe during the College's spring vacation period. We will be back in Clinton on April 1.

John W. Chandler

President's Educ. Philosophy Revealed in 'Spectator' Pages

BY ROBERT KEREN AND PAULA LEON

From the news and editorial pages of six years of the *Spectator*, the Brief presidential career of John Chandler at Hamilton can be chronologically represented. The following are such excerpts, beginning in April, 1967 with Mr. Chandler's appointment to office.

...John Chandler was appointed 15th president of the College last weekend after an intensive nine month search. He addressed the Hamilton student body in a special Chapel Assembly rounding out a long week of extensive confrontation with trustees and faculty. The Assembly was held at Chandler's request as an introductory meeting. He will assume the presidency February 1, 1968. (April 21, 1967)

...Hamilton's President Elect John W. Chandler last Saturday warned against those who would limit student freedom and make American colleges and universities into something other than centers of learning, at the Annual Parent's Weekend Address held here.

He expressed particular alarm over the tendancy within traditional intellectual circles to subordinate analysis and reasoning in in favor of action.

The President elect assured the parents that "in an unusually high degree, this is a colleges, for and of and by the students." (November 17, 1967)

The Long Haul

...Empty for so long, the President's office in Buttrick was now crowded with chairs. Wednesday afternoon Hamilton's 15th president, John W. Chandler was having his first press conference.

Chandler expressed great faith in the quality of education offered at a small liberal arts college where the faculty is "dedicated to the undergraduates." The student develops certain habits of inquiry and an ability to synthesize knowledge, preparing him "for the long haul." (February 2, 1968)

...President John W. Chandler spoke out Monday against "faculty informants" speaking too freely to students about the goings-on at faculty meetings. When asked if this problem had arisen from the recent 48-13 faculty vote favoring the banning of military recruiters, Chandler replied, "yes."

"I would hope that faculty meetings would be forums for discussion of substantive issues," Chandler said. Certain topics, such as curricular reforms in their beginning stages, should be discussed confidentially, Chandler went on.

"It's ridiculous," commented one faculty member. "At a small college like this everything gets around eventually. You can't tell 80 faculty members to keep mum."

"I think Mr. Chandler's right", was the reaction of one member of the administration, explaining that perhaps things should be kept quiet. (February 9, 1968)

Policy Change

...President John W. Chandler, in an interview with the *Spectator*, this week called for a careful exploration of virtually all aspects of Hamilton's curriculum.

Chandler stated that the present five course load is too burdensome for the student.

"The question is not whether or not the student can handle all the work, but if the quality of the educational experience is affected."

He felt that perhaps the Hamilton curriculum is too structured, resulting in a "disciplined exploration of the curiosity."

Chandler said in favoring a study of some pass-fail system for Hamilton, "I this this is an inducement to heathy risk taking."

The possiblity of ending the first semester before Christmas should also be studied.

...The *Spectator*, encourages President Chandler and the faculty to proceed with all reasonable speed toward curriculum reform. Middlebury's Dean of Faculty, commenting on his college's new "4-1-4" curriculum, voted that he had "been hoping for this 10 years." Many people here, we feel, share his sentiments completely. (Editorial Comment, February 16, 1968)

"Many students feel that they came to Hamilton at a time when the college was resting on its laurels. They have felt that Hamilton was not in reality as good as its reputation. *The Spectator* agrees with these students.

"John Chandler represents the hope for a rapidly improved Hamilton. We believe John Chandler *can* 'get Hamilton moving again."' (Editorial Comment, April 20, 1968)

"Good Friends"

... Hamilton President Chandler explained how the College will miss Dean Winton Tolles, retiring from office on June 30. "The Dean carried a fabulous load superbly well; it is almost inconceivable to find any single person who could fill all his jobs. He is like the repository of Common Law at the College."

More on the Dean: "You get to read his face. If he looks puzzled, then you can be sure that there is a real problem. If he looks benign then it's only a problem he's been through before." (September 24, 1971)

... Stephen G. Kurtz will replace Winton Tolles as Dean of Hamilton College upon the Dean's retirement in July. President John W. Chandler announced Mr. Kurtz's selection at the conclusion of a search that began last September.

A student committee interviewed candidates and sent their mixed reactions to the President; the final decision was reached by President Chandler. (February 4, 1972)

... Gil Grout, Assistant to the President since 1969, expects to leave College Hill at the end of this academic year.

President Chandler, upon his arrival on the campus, invited him to take the assistant's post. Grout accepted.

When the Associate Dean's position opened in the spring of 1972, Grout, at the "insistance of some student friends," applied for it and was turned down. "Apparently," he said, "I was not acceptable ... they did not tell me why." President Chandler said that Grout did not have the support of the majority of the people charged with selecting the new dean. Chandler took pains to say that there was no personal disharmony between himself and Mr. Grout. "We are good friends," he said. (November 10, 1972)

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presidents of Hamilton and Kirkland must often act "as siamese twins" and that this will not be the case at Williams.

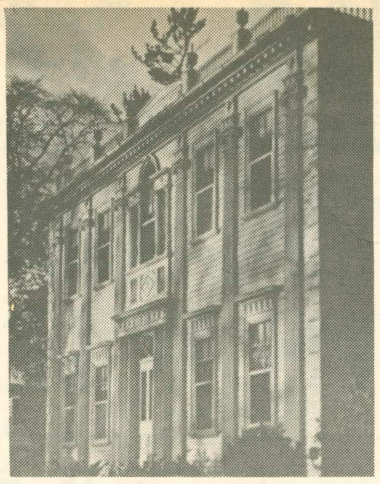
Curriculum Scintilla

President Chandler's brief Hamilton career has been highlighted by the creation of Kirkland College, the change in the curriculum to a 4-1-4 system, and the construction of the Daniel S. Burke Library. When asked what was his major disappointment, Chandler expressed the regret that he did not know a greater number of Hamilton students. He said he had wished that the time constraints of his job did not prevent him from coming into closer contact with students.

Coleman Burke '34, Chairman of the Board, said of Mr. Chandler, "I have never know a man whom I respected any more or with whom I have had a happier relationship. I'm sure many others in the Hamilton family feel the same way. He has given of himself unsparingly and provided leadership of rare quality on and off the campus for every segment of our college community and with education generally in New York State and across the country."

Commenting on the President's resignation, Stephen G. Kurtz, Dean of the College, remarked, "His quiet assurance and good humor have created an atmosphere of confidence and optimism on this campus....As academic leader and colleague in administration he has guided many of us wisely through difficult adjustments. He came to the Hill at the beginning of February, 1968, from Williamstown, and he returns at the end of June 1973, with the confidence that he has done his work well and that he carries our respect and affection with him. We on the faculty and staff wish him success in his new venture while at the same time confessing that we shall greatly miss him. To all of the Chandlers we express our thanks, our sense of loss, and our continuing good wishes."

The College will now begin the search and selection process for the 16th president. A Presidential Search Committee will be formed consisting of five trustees, three students, three faculty members and Alumni Council representatives to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees. It appears unlikely that a candidate can be chosen before July 1, in which case an acting president will be appointed by the Board of Trustees.



President's house at Williams

William's Thompson Memorial Chapel

About Williams

Williams College is a privately-endowed non-sectarian liberal-arts college located in the extreme northwestern corner of Massachussetts, about thirty miles north and east of Albany. A men's school for one hundred seventy-eight years, the college admitted its first women in 1969; two exchange and transfer freshmen classes including about one hundred twenty-five freshmen women have matriculated since then.

Ephraim Williams, the school's founder, endowed a tuition-free school for West Township, on condition that that tract of land, which was then claimed by both Massachussetts and New York, be assigned to the former state, and that the township be renamed after him. The request was carried out, but Williams died in the revolutionary war Battle of Lake George. A year after the school first opened, it was reorganized as an institution of higher learning, and was chartered by the State of Massachussets in 1793.

The college struggled through various financial vicissitudes in the nineteenth century with a little help from its friends, including the State of Massachussetts, which in 1888 exempted the school's cows from taxation. Nevertheless, Williams built a solid reputation for student-centered education and for religious soundness, the latter owing to an informal tie with the Congregational church, which prevented a too-doctrinaire emphasis.

The Williams Campus occupies about four hundred fifty acres in the middle of Williamstown; it architectural furniture comprises some fifty buildings, including Jessup Hall and the Roper Public Opinion Center. The Williams Library houses 17,000 volumes, including special collections on Walt Whitman and T.S. Eliot. The campus also features the Williams College Museum of Art, and the Hopkins Observatory, the oldest in the United States.

The Williams faculty includes some 200 fulltime teachers. Course offerings are very like those here at Hamilton; Williams, however, offers a series of area studies and interdisciplinary majors, and a complete Honors program for qualified juniors and seniors.

A Center For Development Economics, established with a succession of Ford Grants, offers an M.A. degree in studies of the economics of developing countries. Other programs include junior years in India and Hong Kong.

A general distribution requirement obliges students to take two semesters in each of three academic divisions: Language/Arts, Social Studies, and Science/Mathematics; the College calendar is organized, like Hamilton's 4 - 1 - 4 mode. Some departments require comprehensive exams of their majors.

The majority of Williams students are undergraduates, although the college offers Master's degrees in Biology and Physics. The student body numbers approximately thirteen hundred, most of whom live on-campus; there are no residential greek fraternities. Thanks to the college's location in the center of town, school and village enjoy a praticularly genial relationship, which reportedly adds to the warm atmosphere of an historic college-town.

Editorial

The resignation of President Chandler is understandable when one realizes the close ties the Chandlers have had with Williams in the past as teacher, Dean of Faculty and Trustee. His move is a logical one and we wish to express our support for his decision. Hamilton is losing a president who has commanded respect from all parts of the community. We regret that the Williams presidency comes just at the time when Mr. Chandler has developed an administration of his own, but President Chandler has followed his heart; we can appreciate his feelings.

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